

PROCEEDINGS
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DESCRIPTIONS OF TWO NEW MURINE OPOSSUMS
FROM MEXICO.

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Two very different types of pigmy opossums are known from Mexico—the 'red' or rufous *Marmosa murina* (Linn.) and the pale ashy gray *M. canescens* (Allen). Mr. Nelson obtained representatives of *M. murina* at Chicharras and Huehuetan, *Chiapas*, and Juquila, *Oaxaca*, and of *M. canescens* at Santo Domingo de Guzman, Isthmus of Tehuantepec (the type locality); Puerto Angel, Tlapancingo, and Oaxaca, *Oaxaca*; Amolac, *Puebla*; Tlapa, Loehi, and Acapulco, *Guerrero*, and Hacienda Magdalena, *Colima*.

The specimens of the *M. murina* type are paler rufous than the typical form and have the middle of the face abruptly lighter, so that it is necessary to recognize them as a geographic race or subspecies. The Oaxaca specimens of the *canescens* type are markedly darker than typical *canescens* and differ in other respects. The form is here described as distinct under the name *M. oaxacæ*.

***Marmosa oaxacæ* sp. nov.**

Type from City of Oaxaca, Oaxaca, Mexico. No. 68240, ♀ adult, U. S. National Museum, Biological Survey collection. Collected August 14, 1894, by E. W. Nelson and E. A. Goldman. Original No. 6571.

Geographic distribution.—Sonoran fauna of highlands of Oaxaca; limits of range unknown.

General characters.—Size small, smaller than a half-grown rat; similar to *M. canescens* (Allen), but very much darker, and with the dark of upper parts reaching wrists and ankles; feet and ears smaller.

Color.—Upper parts from just behind eyes to base of tail dark sepia brown (almost dusky in fresh pelage); under parts buffy yellow, much deeper than in *canescens*; median face patch (from nose to behind eyes) pale buffy brown; orbital rings large and black, connected posteriorly by dark top of head; dark color of upper parts reaching wrists and ankles; tail bicolor, dark above, whitish beneath.

Cranial characters.—Skull and teeth similar to those of *D. canescens*, but frontal plate a little broader. Measurements of skull of type specimen: basal length, 29; zygomatic breadth, 18.5; palatal length, 17; interorbital breadth, 4.8; greatest breadth of frontals, 8.

Remarks.—*Marmosa oaxacæ* is an upland or Sonoran representative of the tropical *M. canescens* of J. A. Allen. The type of *canescens* came from Santo Domingo de Guzman, on the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. Specimens collected by Mr. Nelson extend its range northwesterly over the arid tropical hills and lowlands of the States of Oaxaca, Guerrero, and Michoacan to the Hacienda Magdalena, in Colima. A specimen was obtained as far inland as Amolac, Puebla.

Marmosa oaxacæ, on the other hand, inhabits the Sonoran highlands of Oaxaca, at the extreme southern end of the tableland of Mexico—a very different fauna. The two forms may be found to intergrade where the Sonoran fauna passes into the tropical, but no evidences of intergradation are to be seen in the eleven specimens of *canescens* obtained by Nelson and Goldman. The new species rests on two specimens—the type, an old female, and an immature male—both from Oaxaca.

Measurements (of type specimen in flesh).—Total length, 263; tail, 144; hind foot, 18.

***Marmosa murina mexicana* subsp. nov.**

Type from Juquila, Oaxaca. No. 71526, ♂ im., U. S. National Museum, Biological Survey collection. Collected February 28, 1895, by E. W. Nelson and E. A. Goldman. Original No. 7571.

Geographic distribution.—Southern Mexico, in States of Oaxaca and Chiapas.

General characters.—Similar to *M. murina*, but rufous of upper parts decidedly paler, and middle of face from between eyes to nose abruptly buffy [in true *murina* the rufous reaches forward to nose]; ears smaller.

Color.—Upper parts from between eyes posteriorly to base of tail cinnamon rufous, gradually fading on sides to ochraceous buffy on belly; orbital ring black and reaching anteriorly to whiskers; middle of face from end of nose to between centers of eyes buffy, in marked contrast to rufous of top of head.

Cranial characters.—Skull similar to that of *M. murina*, but interparietal broader and shorter.

Measurements.—Type specimen (not full grown): total length, 274; tail, 162; hind foot, 20. An adult male from Chicharras, Chiapas: total length, 330; tail, 186; hind foot, 24.